

**ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY & FREER GALLERY OF ART**  
**SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**

**LIGHT DURATION GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITED WORKS OF ART**

The following guidelines were written by members of the Department of Conservation and Scientific Research and the Curatorial Department to establish a procedure for determining the length of time that works of art may be safely exhibited. The Registrar keeps records of each object's exhibit history. Handscrolls and book records indicate what part or pages were exhibited.

CATEGORY	MATERIALS	EXPOSURE DURATION LIMIT	LIGHT LEVEL
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extremely fugitive pigments &amp; dyes</li> <li>▪ Highly degraded paper &amp; silk</li> <li>▪ Albumen &amp; tinted photographs</li> <li>▪ Pre-19<sup>th</sup> century Japanese prints with color</li> </ul>	3 months over 5 years	5 footcandles (50 lux)
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Watercolors</li> <li>▪ Paintings with organic pigments &amp; dyes</li> <li>▪ Textiles in poor condition or with organic dyes</li> <li>▪ Colored papers</li> <li>▪ Other Japanese woodblock prints</li> </ul>	6 months over 5 years	5 footcandles (50 lux)
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paintings with mineral pigments</li> <li>▪ Pastels</li> <li>▪ Textiles in good condition or with aniline dyes</li> <li>▪ Lacquer (depending on condition)</li> <li>▪ Leather, dyed</li> <li>▪ Photographs</li> <li>▪ Carbon ink on paintings</li> <li>▪ Pencil drawings</li> <li>▪ Tempera paintings</li> <li>▪ Most 20<sup>th</sup> century Japanese works on paper</li> </ul>	12 months over 5 years	5 –10 footcandles (50 – 100 lux)
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ivory &amp; bone</li> <li>▪ Wood</li> <li>▪ Lacquer (depending on condition)</li> <li>▪ Oil paintings</li> <li>▪ Leather, not dyed</li> <li>▪ Enamels</li> </ul>	24 months over 5 years	5 –15 footcandles (50 – 150 lux)
<b>E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stone</li> <li>▪ Metals</li> <li>▪ Glass</li> <li>▪ Ceramics</li> <li>▪ Jewels</li> </ul>	Unlimited	Unlimited